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January 17, 1902

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

*Schooner Robin Hood released from quarantine at Charlottetown.*

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, December 28, 1901.

SIR: Referring to my dispatch dated December 11, 1901, schooner *Robin Hood* in quarantine at Georgetown, Prince Edward Island, would say, I am informed the same has been released and is loading at that port.

The seaman has recovered, been released from the marine hospital, and joined his schooner at Georgetown. At the present time this province is free from smallpox.

Respectfully,

DELMER J. VAIL,  
*United States Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

## RUSSIA.

*Precautions against plague in making shipments from Odessa.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 7, 1902.

SIR: Referring to this Department's letter of the 13th ultimo, as to the necessity for the disinfection of wool, goatskins, and old goloshes, shipped from Odessa to the United States, and your answer thereto of the 20th ultimo, I now have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, copy of a dispatch on the subject from the consul of the United States at Odessa.

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,  
*Secretary of State.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

ODESSA, RUSSIA, December 11, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of instruction No. 287 from the Department dated November 22, 1901.

I beg to assure the Department that very thorough precautions have been taken against contamination by rats both as regards merchandise and vessels.

No further cases of the plague have been reported.

Respectfully,

THOS. E. HEENAN,  
*United States Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

## SCOTLAND.

*Report from Glasgow—Smallpox in London—Plague in Mauritius.*

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, December 30, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report: During the week ended December 28, the health of this city and of Scotland generally was satisfactory. In London, smallpox continues at about the same rate as before, the deaths for the week ended December 21 being 24 as against 21, 16, and 26 in the preceding three weeks. There are reported to be at the present time about 700 cases in hospital.

There is very little news as regards plague. In Mauritius, for the week ended December 19, there were 46 cases of plague with 21 deaths, and for the week ended December 26, there were 36 cases and 23 deaths.

In Egypt, for the week ended December 15, there was only 1 case of plague.

Respectfully,  
The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

A. R. THOMAS,  
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

TURKEY.

*Regulations as to the admission of ships at Constantinople from plague-infected ports.*

HULL, ENGLAND, December 12, 1901.

SIR: I beg to transmit you, hereunto annexed, a report on the action of the authorities at Constantinople, establishing regulations relating to the admission of ships to that port from ports infected with plague without having certificates to show that they were thoroughly cleared of rats before loading, and incidentally to dead rats and their connection with recent outbreaks of plague in Hull, Glasgow, and Liverpool. The circular of the British board of trade in relation to the above subject is also annexed and made a part of the report.

TURKEY AND RATS.

The Turkish authorities at Constantinople have taken the rat question seriously in hand by the adoption of regulations governing the admission of ships into that port from the Mediterranean, and ports where infection or plague is said to exist. The health board has considered the question in all its phases, and accepted the popular theory that rats are responsible for the spread of plague where the climate and unsanitary conditions are found to assist in its development.

As there is not another city on the European continent that needs protection against itself in this respect more than Constantinople, the promulgation of the new rules is regarded here with a seriousness that is not without a tinge of humor. In Hull the shipowners have already taken the matter in hand, and a correspondence has been opened with the Turkish embassy in London on the subject. The consular representative here knows nothing about it; nor do the people at the embassy, as is shown in replies to the consulate. The Wilson Steamship Company has been unable to obtain any authentic information on the subject from either source, and have to rest content with what has been published by the British board of trade. They are preparing, however, to meet the difficulty, and have secured the services of a professional rat killer in Hull to make war on the pests in all ships sailing for Constantinople. Heretofore it has been their custom to employ powerful disinfectants for this purpose, sulphur dioxide ( $SO_2$ ) being largely used. Thousands of rats have been destroyed in this way, and in nearly every instance were found dead on the lower deck, immediately under the hatchway. They come out on the deck from the bilge to get the air and die there. It was found, however, that all did not perish this way, as numbers have been found dead under the deck.

The rat catcher's methods are said to be more effective. He operates at night when the ship is clear of its cargo, using traps principally, and various sorts of baits in which anise seed, pork, etc., figure prominently. In every case the carcasses are consumed in the furnaces. Some of these carcasses are sent to the medical officer of health, Dr. Mason, to undergo a bacteriological examination.